Academic Rigor: *My Favorite Teacher*

**Purpose:** To discover ways of learning effectively when an instructor does not teach to the student’s preferred way(s) of learning.

**Directions:**

1. (To students) *Think of your favorite teacher of all time and make a list of the qualities and characteristics that made this person your favorite teacher.*
2. *Now think of your least favorite teacher of all time and make a list of what you specifically disliked about his or her teaching method.* (Optional: Here you might show the very brief and funny scene from *Ferris Bueller’s Day Off* in which a teacher is lecturing badly on economics. It is available on YouTube as “Boring Economics Teacher.” [1:13 minutes]).
3. (Place students into small groups) *As a group, combine your lists of what you liked about your favorite teachers and create one list. Then combine your lists of what you disliked about your least favorite teachers and create a second list.*
4. *Now, imagine that you are taking a class with an instructor who exhibits some or all of the characteristics of your least favorite teachers. Utilizing what you know about learning styles and academic rigor and resilience, come up with a list of what* ***you*** *could do in this class to learn the subject well and get a good grade in the course despite how the instructor teaches.*
5. [Have volunteers from each group present a summary of their preferred way of learning and one or two strategies for learning when an instructor isn’t teaching to that preferred way of learning.]
6. [Class discussion: *Which of these ideas will you try? Why?* Also discuss the idea of adopting a Growth mindset and resiliency in this situation. For example, continuing to move forward to reach goals even with faced with challenges.]

*On Course Facilitator’s Manual* by Skip Downing, 8th edition.